

DRL Press Guidance
Human Rights Report 2001
March 4, 2002

RELEASED IN FULL

VENEZUELA

Q: What does the human rights report say about the current situation in Venezuela?

A:

- SEVERAL AREAS CONTINUE TO CAUSE CONCERN, SPECIFICALLY THE FAILURE OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE AND PUNISH ABUSES BY POLICE AND SECURITY FORCES, AND CONTINUED CORRUPTION AND INEFFICIENCY IN THE JUDICIARY.
- WE ALSO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT APPEAR TO THREATEN THE INDEPENDENCE OF LABOR UNIONS AND THE INTELLECTUAL AUTONOMY OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Q: What is the U.S. doing to support human rights in Venezuela?

A:

- THE U.S. PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO ENHANCE THE VIGOR AND VIABILITY OF VENEZUELA'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

Q: (If asked) Is the provision of U.S. assistance to democratic institutions in Venezuela an attempt to change the government prior to the next elections?

A.

- ASSISTANCE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO AN INSTITUTION IN A STRICTLY NON-PARTISAN MANNER, BASED UPON THE ROLE THAT THE INSTITUTION HAS PLAYED OR MAY PLAY IN THE STRENGTHENING OF VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY.

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- THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ANY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE TO STRENGTHEN
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS SO THAT VENEZUELA'S DEMOCRATIC
TRADITIONS MAY CONTINUE.

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